According to what I have read about the proposed Microsoft settlement, I believe it will be mostly ineffective, amounting to just a slap on the wrist.

The most damaging thing Microsoft does is to "embrace and extend" other people's technologies, as happened with kerberos and Java, and to keep their own data protocols in a constant state of flux, so that only their applications can access the data.

Not only does this cause a great deal of frustration for the end-user, but it also confirms that Microsoft's products can't stand on their own merits, and need these dirty tactics in order to compete.

Here's what I would find satisfactory:

The provisions within the settlement that address the opening up of protocols should be radically strengthened. And this information needs to be made available to any interested party, not just other big companies.

An inquiry should be made about the extent to which the federal and state governments can limit the money they spend on information products relying on proprietary or unpublished protocols and data formats. This should come as a package deal as part of the settlement.

Thank you,

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